



Disaster News

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DR-1643-NH NR13

Kevin Galvin, FEMA 603-431-6935

James C. Van Dongen, BEM 603-271-2231

Michael Lampton, SBA 404 347-3771

N.H. FLOOD VICTIMS URGED TO RETURN SBA APPLICATION

NEWINGTON, NH – Residents and business owners, who applied for disaster aid due to the heavy flooding and received U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) loan applications, are urged to return the completed applications quickly, even if they do not want a loan, according to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and New Hampshire Bureau of Emergency Management officials.

“Completing the SBA loan application does not obligate anyone to accept a loan, but it often opens doors to other types of aid that do not require repayment,” Federal Coordinating Officer Kenneth Clark said. “Individuals who do not qualify for SBA loans may be automatically referred to other available disaster programs.”

State Coordinating Officer Mike Poirier said these FEMA programs can include grants to help pay for temporary housing, home repairs and other serious disaster-related expenses. “The sooner people call to apply for assistance and mail back the completed loan application to SBA, the sooner financial assistance can be provided to them,” he said.

SBA low-interest loans are available to homeowners, renters and businesses in the six county (Belknap, Carroll, Hillsborough, Merrimack, Rockingham, Strafford) presidential declaration area. The loans are provided for repairing or replacing uninsured or underinsured disaster-damaged property. Businesses may also be eligible for disaster loans to repair or replace machinery, equipment, fixtures, and inventory not covered by insurance, as well as for working capital to assist them during the disaster recovery period.

Residents and business owners with flood-related losses are urged to begin the application process immediately by calling, toll-free, **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)** or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for the hearing and speech impaired. Trained personnel are available to take applications from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., seven days a week until further notice.

(MORE)

FLOOD VICTIMS URGED TO RETURN SBA APPLICATIONS-Page 2

FEMA manages federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident. FEMA also initiates mitigation activities, works with state and local emergency managers, and manages the National Flood Insurance Program. FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on March 1, 2003.

The N.H. Bureau of Emergency Management is responsible for coordinating the state's emergency response to major natural and man-made disasters.

Editors: For more information visit www.fema.gov or www.nhoem.state.nh.us

If you suspect a repair rip-off, call the New Hampshire Department of Justice, Consumer Protection and Antitrust Bureau at 603-271-3641. If you suspect fraud, waste, or abuse involving FEMA disaster assistance programs, report it to FEMA's Inspector General's Office 1-800-323-8603.

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